

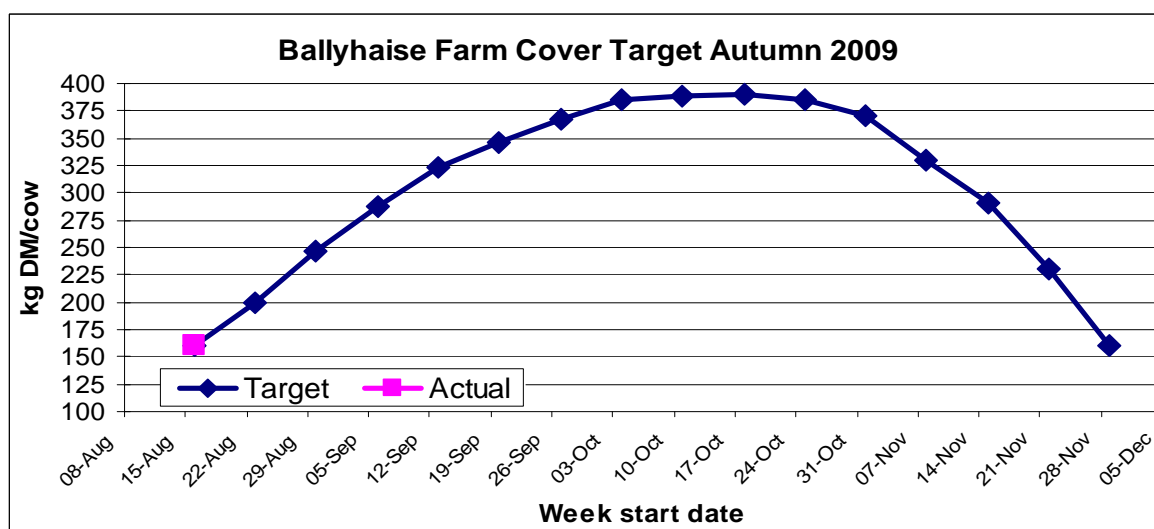
Ballyhaise Weekly Farm Notes - Monday 18/8/2009

A. Critical Issues

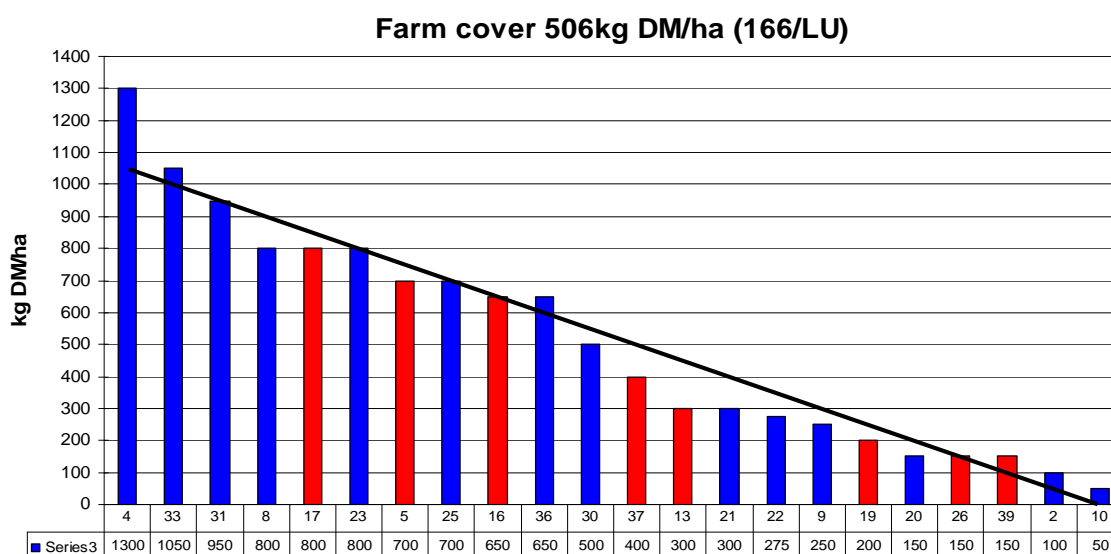
1. Maximise cow intakes of pasture and maintain residual at 3.5cm
2. Ensure cows are getting better fed each week

B. On farm situation

1. Soil temperature today is 15.5°C.
2. Total weekly rainfall is 21mm.
3. Average growth was 69kgDM/ha/day, (13% DM).
4. Demand is 43kgDM/ha/day (3.1SR * 14kgDM/cow/day).
5. Grass supply is on target (166 vs. 160/cow).
6. Autumn budget.



7. Farm feed wedge (18/8/09).



8. Farm cover is on target this week but rotation length is still only 21 days, this should have increased to 24 days by now. Two kilos of concentrate have been

introduced to help extend rotation length and give paddocks a chance to respond to N applications. Also with wet weather forecast for this week grass utilisation may also be decreased.

9. The red paddocks on the wedge are the wettest paddocks on the farm, they will be grazed first during dry periods once they are in the top third of the wedge. This will help minimise pasture damage on these paddocks during wet periods.
10. At a stocking rate of 3.1 cows /ha, a 14kg per cow grass allowance and a 24 day rotation length our ideal pre-grazing yield is now 1040kg DM/ ha ($3.1 * 14 * 24 = 1040$).
11. Rotation length is 21 days; this should increase by about 2 days per week and should be around 30 days by the end of August. A peak rotation length of 45 days should be reached around the 20th of September.
12. Post grazing height on the last paddock grazed was 3.6cm.
13. 27 units of N spread on grazed paddocks once every 10 days. Total N usage to the beginning of August is 182kg/ha.
14. Submission rate of 82% after third week of breeding season.
15. Average milk yield is 15.8kg at 4.35% fat and 3.55% protein (1.24kg MS/cow), lactose 4.72%, SCC 180k, TBC 4k.

C. Critical short term actions :

- Allocating grass on a 24hr basis.
- Two kilos of concentrate introduced.
- Cows moved when residual is reached.

www.agresearch.teagasc.ie/moorepark/



Dairy Production Research in the Northeast

Objective:

To increase the profitability of milk production per hectare in the BMW region through improved pasture management and utilisation in combination with genetic improvement using the Economic Breeding Index.

Year	2004	2007	2008
Grazing season (days)	226	271	280
Herd EBI (€)	28	51	55
Stocking Rate (Cows/ha)	2.2	2.6	2.9
Concentrate (kg/cow)	700	400	250
Milk (kg/ha)	12,381	11,890	13,340
Milk Solids (kg/ ha)	928	931	1,150
6 week pregnancy rate (%)	38	55	65
Farm Profit (30 ha)	37,417	56,182	-

Week:16/8/09	HG system	HS system
Stocking rate (cows/ha)	3.1	4.6
Milk yield (kg/cow/day)	15.8	16.2
% Fat	4.35	4.01
% Protein	3.55	3.45
% Lactose	4.72	4.73
Milk solids (kg/cow/day)	1.24	1.20
Supplement (kg/cow/day)		
Concentrate	0.5	2
Silage	0	0
Cumulative		
Milk yield (kg/cow)	3091	3202
% Fat	4.52	4.42
% Protein	3.33	3.23
% Lactose	4.77	4.78
Milk solids (kg/cow)	241	245
Bodyweight (kg)	456	482
Body Condition Score	2.75	2.78
Supplement (kg/cow)		
Concentrate	320	523
Silage	60	110
Maize	0	180
Conserved silage (kg DM/cow)	831	126
Mean Calving Date	4 th March	

